

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEAE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6908

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BOMBAY UNN

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, IR

SUBJ: STAFF IRANIAN REACTION TO ALLEGED CRITICISM BY
INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: TEHRAN 6706

1. MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SWARAN SINGH SPOKE TO
THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE IN OTTAWA ON AUGUST 3 ON
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. HIS REMARKS ON THE PERSIAN GULF
(REQUESTED IN REFTTEL) FOLLOW:

2. "THE PROBLEMS OF THE OIL RICH GULF GIVE USS ALL A
PAUSE. THERE ARE IN THAT REGION THE BEGINNINGS OF AN
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ARMS RACE WHICH IS INITIATED AND ENCOURAGED BY THE VENDORS

OF ARMS, AND DOES NOT SERVE THE INTERESTS EITHER OF PEACE OR OF THE PEOPLES OF THE SMALL AND AFFLUENT OIL PRODUCING NATIONS AND CITY-STATES OF THAT REGION. OIL IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAS A SYMBOL OF AFFLUENCE AND STRENGTH, AND COULD, GIVEN TIME, BECOME THE BASIS OF SOCIAL REGENERATION AND MARCH TOWARDS SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MODERNISM. INSTEAD, IT IS TODAY A PROBLEM AND AN EMBARRASSMENT FOR THOSE PEOPLES AND A PRETEXT FOR AN UNNECESSARY AND DANGEROUS ARMS RACE IN WHICH THE RULERS OF THAT REGION ARE BEING ENCOURAGED BY OUTSIDERS WHO BUY THEIR OIL AND SELL THEM SOPHISTICATED ENGINES OF DESTRUCTION.

IRAN, KUWAIT, SAUDI ARABIA AND SEVERAL OTHER SMALLER COUNTRIES ARE BEGINNING TO GO IN FOR A HUGE AND DANGEROUS PROGRAMME OF ARMING THEMSELVES. NOBODY SEEMS TO ASK THE OBVIOUS QUESTION: WHO ARE THESE ARMS TO FIGHT? AS MORE AND MORE ARMS KEEP GETTING PUMPED INTO THIS VOLATILE AND EXPLOSIVE REGION WE WONDER HOW SAFE FREEDOM AND PEACE IN THIS REGION WILL BE. IN THE NAME ON THE SAFETY OF THE SEA LANES THROUGH WHICH THE MIDDLE-EAST OIL HAS TO PASS TO THE WESTERN WORLD, A LARGE STOCKPILE OF ARMAMENTS IS BEING BUILT UP AND THIS STOCKPILE ITSELF WILL BE COVETED BY THOSE, WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE SOCIETIES OF THAT REGION, AGAINST WHOM IT IS SUPPOSED TO BE AN INSURANCE POLICY. SURELY, IT MUST BE CLEAR TO ALL THAT THESE ARMS ARE THEMSELVES GOING TO BE THE BASIS ON WHICH MILITARISM WILL BE BUILT UP IN THAT REGION LEADING TO INCALCULABLE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE PEOPLE OF THOSE COUNTRIES AND FOR THEIR NEIGHBORS."

SCHNEIDER

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